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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,578	09/26/2004	Timothy Kingston	6730.059.PCUS00	5577
65858	7590	06/24/2008	EXAMINER	
NOVAK DRUCE AND QUICG LLP (Volvo) 1000 LOUISIANA STREET FIFTY-THIRD FLOOR HOUSTON, TX 77002			RASHID, MAHBUBUR	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3683		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/711,578	Applicant(s) KINGSTON ET AL.
	Examiner MAHBUBUR RASHID	Art Unit 3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on **24 March 2008**.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) **1-3 and 5-21** is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) **1-3 and 5-19** is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) **20 and 21** is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166a)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/13/2008 and 04/07/2008.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1 and 17-19 are amended.

Claims 20 and 21 are added as new claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dahlen (US 6,131,705).

Regarding **claim 20**, Dahlen discloses a device comprising: a driving unit (42) displaceable between a first position and a second position for driving an object (8) a distance corresponding to a distance between the first and the second positions by means of a friction joint (where 42 is frictionally contact with 36) when the driving unit (42) is displaced from the first position to the second position, said friction joint being configured to enable displacement of the driving unit (42) and the object (8) relative to each another under the influence of a certain lowest force;

a spring member (22) arranged to act on the driving unit (42) in a direction towards the second position by means of a spring force; and

an interconnecting component (36) that interconnects the driving unit (42) and the object (8), the interconnecting component (36) having a surface that forms the friction joint (where 42 is frictionally contact with 36) in cooperation with a surface of the driving unit (42), and the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) being interconnected so that the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) are locked against displacement (please note that the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) are frictionally contact to each other therefore when one of the elements moves the other element will move with it) relative to one another when the object (8) is acted on in a direction towards the forward position and the interconnecting component (36) is acted on in an opposite direction, for driving the object (8) to the rearward position by means of the interconnecting component (36) when the driving unit (42) is displaced to the second position during influence of the spring member (22) and for driving the driving unit (42) to the first position by means of the interconnecting component (36) when the object (8) is displaced to the forward position;

wherein the interconnecting component (36) is provided with at least one portion for taking up any occurring deformation of and/or force from the object to thereby avoid loading the contact surfaces of the friction joint.

Regarding **claim 21**, Dahlen discloses a device comprising: a driving unit (42) displaceable between a first position and a second position for driving an object (8) a distance corresponding to a distance between the first and the second positions by means of a friction joint (where 42 is frictionally contact with 36) when the driving unit (42) is displaced from the first position to the second position, said friction joint being

configured to enable displacement of the driving unit (42) and the object (8) relative to each another under the influence of a certain lowest force;

a spring member (22) arranged to act on the driving unit (42) in a direction towards the second position by means of a spring force; and

an interconnecting component (36) that interconnects the driving unit (42) and the object (8), the interconnecting component (36) having a surface that forms the friction joint (where 42 is frictionally contact with 36) in cooperation with a surface of the driving unit (42), and the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) being interconnected so that the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) are locked against displacement (please note that the interconnecting component (36) and the object (8) are frictionally contact to each other therefore when one of the elements moves the other element will move with it) relative to one another when the object (8) is acted on in a direction towards the forward position and the interconnecting component (36) is acted on in an opposite direction, for driving the object (8) to the rearward position by means of the interconnecting component (36) when the driving unit (42) is displaced to the second position during influence of the spring member (22) and for driving the driving unit (42) to the first position by means of the interconnecting component (36) when the object (8) is displaced to the forward position.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 and 5-19 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MAHBUBUR RASHID whose telephone number is (571)272-7218. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on (571) 272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mhr

/Robert A. Siconolfi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3683